

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with X. Christina Huang on August 29, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 5, line 11, replace "one or more" with --a plurality of--.

In claim 5, line 12, replace "one or more" with --a plurality of--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2, 4-22 and 48-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest a system in which a flow front control feature, such as channels or protrusions or a plurality of regions of hydrophobic and hydrophilic material, is located only on the opposite surface of a detection surface comprising capture agent. It is noted that Buechler (U.S. 6,156,270), cited as pertinent art below in the "Conclusion" section, appears to teach away from providing grooves *only* on the surface opposite the capture surface because Buechler teaches that grooves provided on the *capture* surface itself facilitates

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binding to the capture surface. Thus it appears that providing a smooth [or non-grooved] capture surface and a grooved opposite surface would teach away from the desirability of facilitating binding to the capture surface. Also, Buechler appears to be teaching away from providing an opposite surface (to the capture surface) that comprises a plurality of regions of hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions since Buechler teaches that hydrophobic regions opposite the capture surface repulses or forces the reaction mixture to the surface where capture occurs, thus improving the capture efficiency of the components of the reaction mixture to the capture zone. Thus this appears to be teaching away from using hydrophilic regions in the surface opposite the capture surface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. 6,156,270 ("Buechler").

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/596,948 (overlapping inventors).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN LAM whose telephone number is (571)272-0822. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 9-7:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on 571-272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ann Y. Lam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641